Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1–9. (Canceled.)

10. (Currently amended) A method of treating vasomotor symptoms comprising:

~~administering a therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound to a subject; and~~

administering a first dose of a therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound to a subject;

administering a second dose of a therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound at a later time period to the subject, said second dose comprising a lower dosage of said therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound than said first dose; and

administering a therapeutic amount of a progestational agent of less than 20 mg.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said progestational agent is selected from the group consisting of megestrol acetate, laevo-norgestrel, dl-norgestrel, norethindrone (norethisterone), norethindrone (norethisterone) acetate, ethynodiol diacetate, dydrogesterone, medroxyprogesterone acetate, norethynodrel, allylestrenol, lynoestrenol, quingestanol acetate, medrogestone, norgestrienone, dimethisterone, ethisterone, and cyproterone acetate.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising administering an androgen compound in a daily dose.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said megestrol acetate is continuously and uninterruptedly administered to said subject.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said megestrol acetate is administered in doses ranging from 1 mg to less than 20 mg.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the estrogenic compound comprises a mixture of estrogenic compounds, wherein said mixture comprises salts of conjugated estrone, conjugated equilin, conjugated $\Delta^{8,9}$-dehydroestrone, conjugated 17α-estradiol, conjugated 17α-dihydroequilin, conjugated 17β-dihydroequilin, conjugated 17β-estradiol, conjugated equilenin, conjugated 17α-dihydroequilenin, and conjugated 17β-dihydroequilenin.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 10, the estrogenic compound comprises a mixture of estrogenic compounds wherein said conjugated estrogens is selected from the group consisting of the sodium sulfate esters of estrone, equilin, 17α-dihydroequilin, 17β-dihydroequilin and 17α-estradiol.

17 and 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim**[[17]]** 10, wherein said second dose of an estrogenic compound is administered between 2 weeks and 12 weeks after the first dose of an estrogenic compound.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim**[[17]]** 10, wherein said second dose of an estrogenic compound is administered between 4 weeks and 8 weeks after the first dose of an estrogenic compound.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim**[[17]]** 10, wherein said vasomotor symptoms are selected from the group of hot flashes, cold flashes, night sweats, day sweats, dry vagina, dry hair and skin, insomnia, bladder problems and moodiness.

22. (Currently amended) The method according claim**[[17]]** 10, wherein said first dose is continuously and uninterruptedly administered to said subject for a predetermined period of time and then said second dose is continuously and uninterruptedly administered to said subject.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim**[[17]]** 10 further comprising:

administering a third dose of a therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound at a later time period to the subject than that of said second dose, said third dose comprising a lower dosage of said therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound than said second dose.

24–28. (Canceled.)

29. (Currently amended) A method for treating a patient afflicted with vasomotor symptoms, comprising administering an estrogenic compound to said patient for at least two cycles of a cyclical dosing schedule, wherein the first cycle comprises a dosing period of 4 to 12 weeks, in which the estrogenic compound is administered daily, at a dose of 0.625 to 1.5 mg/day, followed by a second cycle comprising a dosing period that can last for an indeterminate period of time in which an estrogenic compound is administered daily, at a dose of 0.05 to 0.625 mg/day and by administering megestrol acetate daily at a dose of 6 mg/day.

30–31. (Canceled.)